



# Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

## *Mineral Area College, MO*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

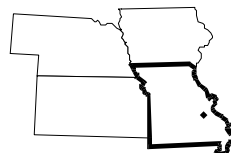
EPA has selected the Mineral Area College (MAC) in Missouri for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. MAC's assessment pilot partner is Bonne Terre, Missouri. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the Old Lead Belt counties of Madison and St. Francois (population 25,000), located 60 miles south of St. Louis. The two Ozark counties are characterized by small, aging, rural communities that are economically distressed as the result of the demise of the lead mining industry in the area. Poverty and unemployment rates in these communities are significantly higher than state-wide and national averages.

The counties contain more than 400 acres of exposed mine tailings and hundreds of acres of brownfields created by their close proximity to tailings and the abandonment of mining-related facilities. The six municipalities participating in this Pilot are working to improve transportation arteries and redevelop hundreds of acres of brownfields. Two major national environmental cleanup firms recently opened satellite offices in the area. The increased brownfields redevelopment activities and economic distress of

### PILOT SNAPSHOT

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 1999

**Amount:** \$200,000



*Mineral Area College,  
Missouri*

**Profile:** The Pilot will train 50 participants in a mine waste site assessment and cleanup program with an emphasis on innovative technologies. Students will be recruited from low-income residents of the Old Lead Belt, which has been economically depressed since the demise of the mining industry in the area during the 1970s.

### Contacts:

Mineral Area College  
(573)518-2153

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 7  
(913)551-7786

Visit the EPA Region 7 Brownfields web site at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/  
brown/brownfields.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/brown/brownfields.htm)

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Old Lead Belt residents indicate a need for environmental training.

## **TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

MAC plans to train 50 participants, achieve a 65 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for at least two years after the Pilot is completed. Participants will be recruited from low-income residents of the Old Lead Belt municipalities. The Pilot training program will consist of a 30 credit-hour mine waste site assessment and cleanup program that emphasizes innovative technologies, leading to a Brownfields Worker Certification.

MAC's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Bonne Terre Brownfields Committee, East Missouri Action Agency, Unitec Career Center, six municipalities in the Old Lead Belt, and the Park Hills Chamber of Commerce. Graduates can apply their training toward an Associate's Degree, and internships with local environmental companies are available.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents of the Old Lead Belt;
- Conducting mining-related brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for at least two years after the job training is completed.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*